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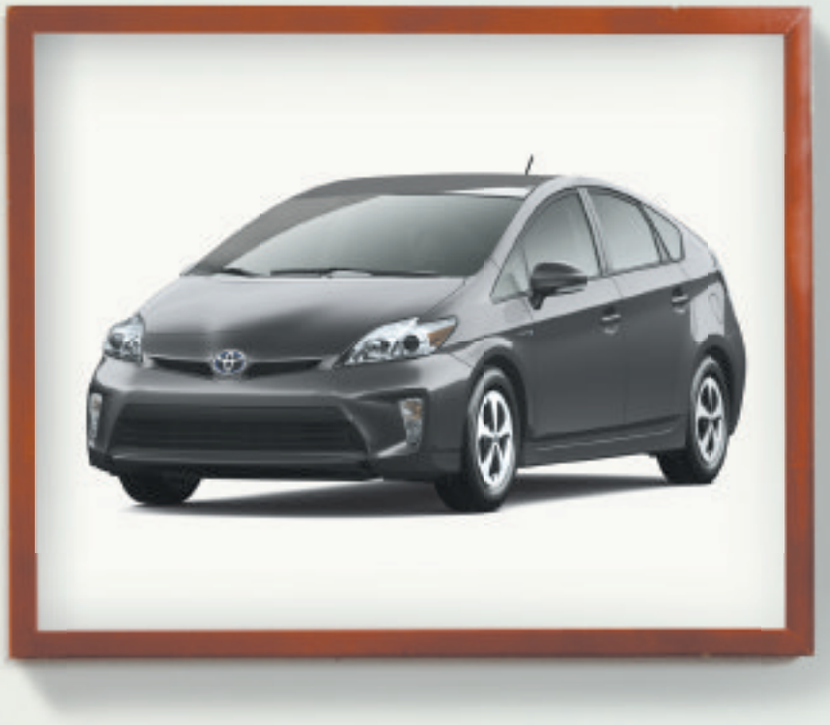

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No winners in the LFL

Paul Sullivan's no fan of the raciest game in town: The Lingerie Football League COLUMN, PAGE 8

BEFORE THE MASKS AND SHIELDS ...

THE MOVIES THAT SHAPED THE AVENGERS ACTORS INTO STARS PAGE 10

SASKATOON metro®

Wednesday, May 2, 2012

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FLOWER POWER

April showers bring May flowers. Despite the recent dreary weather, it won't be long until gardeners are in the full swing of things. We take a look at the gardening industry on page 3. CALVIN FEHR/FOR METRO

Human-rights complaint led to threats: Atheist

Controversy. Local man says he has been targeted after attempting to get prayer removed from municipal events

MORGAN MODJESKI
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A Saskatoon man who filed a human-rights complaint in an attempt to get prayer removed from municipal events says he has received intimidating messages and alleged threats as a result.

Ashu M.G. Solo, an interdisciplinary researcher, engineer and mathematician said he decided to file the complaint with the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission (SHRC) after a prayer by Coun. Randy Donauer was read at a civic-volunteer-appreciation banquet. Solo said he has seen a number of unsettling messages.

"I saw on Facebook that people were discussing my complaint, and one person left a message saying, 'Hey atheist, I hope someone kills ya.'" He added that his race, appearance and atheist beliefs have been subject to similar attacks.

Solo said he believes prayer at municipal events does not reflect a diverse community.

"I think it makes all non-Christians feel like second-class citizens," said Solo. "I was extremely surprised, extremely offended and extremely angered that there was a Christian prayer to start the event because it was an extremely diverse audience.

"It was really not appropriate."

However, Mayor Donald Atchison said the city — at this time — has no intentions to change policy for municipal events and they will be waiting for the SHRC's response.

"We'll carry on the way we have right now and we'll just wait for the provincial human-rights commission to look at his complaint," said Atchison. "Quite frankly, there has never been any direct dialogue with him at all — he's done all of his dialoguing through the media, and now it's at the human rights, so we'll just leave it there."

When asked about the alleged threats, Atchison said he doesn't condone them, but said they do happen.

"I certainly hope people wouldn't be doing things like that, but councillors and mayors certainly receive those types of things too, from time to time, and it's certainly disturbing and upsetting for everyone," said Atchison.

"We live in a society where people can certainly express their point of views and we would hope people would express them in a lawful-type manner."

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NEWS

On the web

How much is that tiger in the window?

After officials were forced to slaughter more than two dozen tigers, leopards and lions last year when a suicidal owner of an Ohio exotic animal farm set them free, lawmakers are rethinking the rules. In some states, it's easier to buy a tiger or lion from a breeder than it is to adopt a kitten from a shelter. Get the full story and video at metronews.ca

Hazing death in Florida

Five Florida band members have been charged after a ritual hazing went horribly wrong last year. Drummer Robert Champion suffered blunt trauma and died from shock caused by severe bleeding after he was hazed by other band members on a bus parked outside an Orlando hotel. It has been suggested he was targeted because Champion was gay. Read the full story at metronews.ca

Mobile news

The instructions are simple: Hold up an old photo in front of the place where it was originally shot, take a picture of the picture, then write a dedication about what the photo means to you. Scan the code for more on the web phenomenon.

Saskatoon Valkyries quarterback Candace Bloomquist looks to lead her team to its second Western Women's Canadian Football League Championship.
MORGAN MODJESKI/METRO

Football champs pumped, prepped

Valkyries. Team heads into new season well-conditioned with a new roster of players

MORGAN MODJESKI
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After ending their inaugural season as champions of the Western Women's Canadian Football League, the Saskatoon Valkyries are now preparing to defend their title in 2012.

With the Valkyries' first game scheduled for May 13, head coach Jeff Yausie said he hopes endurance training, coach encouragement and gradual training of a large crop of rookies will mean success for the team's second season.

"In the off-season, the team received funding from Sask Sport to do athlete development stuff, so the girls hired Ignite Conditioning, so they've been training with personal trainers over the course of the winter," said Yausie.

"When you add those things together, with the fact that we've had 20 players come out to the team — we're practicing with about 50 players now. That's going to allow us to be a lot more efficient in practice."

Valkyries quarterback, Candace Bloomquist, said the team is anxious for the upcoming season.

"There's always a nervous anticipation when a new season comes up," said Bloomquist.

"It's a new group of girls so it will be fun to see what we can do; and the nervousness comes from wanting to do well ... it's a positive kind of nervousness."

Bloomquist said she is working on a number of things for this upcoming season, but teamwork will be one of her main focuses.

"I know we have a lot of great athletes, but as everyone knows, football is a complex game and it takes everybody on the field to be successful," said Bloomquist.

"I think working together as a team, fulfilling our responsibilities at each of our individual positions and seeing it all come together is something we're going to continue to work on."

Follow Morgan Modjeski on Twitter @morganmodjeski

The making of ...

- **Total teams.** A total of seven teams make up the WWCFL.
- **First game.** Valkyries to play Regina Riot in first game of 2012 season.
- **Inaugural season.** WWCFL's inaugural season was 2011.
- **Establishment.** Foundations for league was established in Calgary roughly a decade ago.
- **All women.** WWCFL is the first all women's interprovincial tackle football league.

Kelsie Fraser has been hired by the Saskatoon Police Service as a social media expert. JANE CAULFIELD/METRO

Social media. Tweets to add personality to SPS

The Saskatoon Police Service has a new face behind its social media presence.

Social media expert Kelsie Fraser was hired to boost communications on Twitter and Facebook. The SPS have been using social media for more than a year, but created the new position to allow for more interactions with residents.

"Social media is largely used by a demographic who may not get their news through traditional media sources and are more reliant on Twitter and Facebook to share messages and information," said Alyson Edwards, director of public affairs with the SPS. "We are expanding our reach beyond an emergency based basis. Its adding more personality behind the police service."

Fraser says she hopes to host town-hall meetings on Twitter and Facebook.

JANE CAULFIELD/METRO

Regina request

Province asked to cough up $230M for new stadium

The Saskatchewan government says it's being asked to kick in $230 million for a new stadium project in Regina. Ken Cheveldayoff, minister responsible for the proposed facility, says the request was made by the city as part of a bigger redevelopment project.

The province's share could be for various parts of the project including a building for the Saskatchewan Roughriders football team as well as homes and businesses. Cheveldayoff is now asking the city for more specific information. The province punted plans for a domed stadium last year due to a lack of federal funding. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Uranium revenue

Cameco Corp. profits are up

Saskatchewan-based uranium producer Cameco Corp. reports its first-quarter included double-digit increases to both revenue and profit.

Net income was up 45 per cent from a year earlier, rising to $132 million or 33 cents per share before adjustments while revenue increased 22 per cent to $563 million.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Cart shipment

New leaf and grass collection customers please stand by

A delay in the shipment of additional collection carts will cause a delay in service for new subscribers to the city's leaf and grass collection program.

The bi-weekly collection service will run as scheduled for existing subscribers. Carts will be delivered to new customers as they arrive, along with a updated service schedule. METRO

Construction

Traffic detour at Idylwyld overpass

Starting Thursday, May 3 at 9:30 a.m., traffic will be detoured at the New Idylwyld Drive overpass as crews work on the Circle Drive South project.

The project is expected to last 4 months. All three construction phases will include squeezing traffic on Idylwyld, near Clarence, in to single lanes for both directions. METRO

Never mind the rain: Gardeners are keen to get their hands dirty

What's blooming. Get ready for black petunias, double-blooming lilies and the 'Bloomerang' to spice up your garden

In just a week or so, greenhouses, nurseries and garden departments will be bustling with shoppers.

After an unusually mild winter, people are more than eager to get their hands into the soil, set out their favourite plants and seedlings, dig in new shrubs and trees and refurbish or create new flower beds. Many gardeners also take pride in being the first in their neighbourhood to add that hot new hybrid to their collection.

Saskatoon gardeners spend millions of dollars every year indulging their growing and gardening fantasies.

Statistics Canada's most recent survey in 2010 showed greenhouse sales in Saskatchewan reached almost $18 million. Another $8 million was spent on nursery sales, and another $2.5 million on sod.

"And those figures don't really track the product brought in from outside the province," says Glen Sweetman, greenhouse and nursery specialist with Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food. Nor does Statistics Canada take into account all of the roughly 230 producers operating in the province. "Many are smaller operators, and many are cash-only producers," he says.

Connie Surowski is in her third season as gardening and greenhouse supervisor at Rona Home and Garden Centre in Regina.

"I love it," she says. "It's a very busy season for us because as soon as the snow melts, we start preparing."

Because Rona shops nationally and requires huge-volume suppliers, none of the nursery or greenhouse stock is sourced in Saskatchewan. Most of the bedding plants come from B.C., but some trees, shrubs and plants are imported from the United States.

"We do try to make sure the plants we sell here are zone-hardy," Surowski says, "and we do have people's favourites. The wave petunias and geraniums go fast!"

Dutch Growers, operated by Tim and Karen Van Duyvendyk, is one of Saskatchewan's and Regina's biggest nurseries, employing 60 or more people at this time of year. Its sister store in Saskatoon goes back to 1954.

"We make 70 per cent of our yearly income in six weeks, so it takes a lot of co-ordination and orchestration," Karen Van Duyvendyk says. "It all starts the season before, when we begin visiting trial gardens to view the new plants for the next season, attend seminars and order all our materials. It's much more complicated than most people realize."

Plants to watch for this year?

"Double is the word," Van Duyvendyk says. "Double lilies and daylilies, and double-blooming shrubs such as the lilac repeat bloomer — the Bloomerang. Grasses are also very popular and add excitement to container gardening. And we'll have black petunias this year!"

ELAINE CARLSON/FOR METRO

Can you dig it?

"Our goal is that at least 10 per cent of our stock will be new and unique varieties. This year's finds include the twister pink verbena and a unique bougainvillea."

Larry Levsen, Sherwood Greenhouses

Go traditional or go modern: Every gardening season brings new hybrids. CALVIN FEHR/FOR METRO

Colourful beds like these are every gardener's dream. CALVIN FEHR/FOR METRO

Saskatoon's Kaylyn Kyle. CONTRIBUTED/RICK MORRISON

Women's soccer. Kyle signs with Vancouver Whitecaps

Saskatoon's Kaylyn Kyle has signed on for her sixth season with the Vancouver Whitecaps. Also signing with the Whitecaps are Kyle's national team teammates Melanie Booth and Brittany Timko.

"We're ecstatic to add players the quality of Melanie, Kaylyn and Brittany," Whitecaps women's coach Jesse Symons said in a statement. "Not only do they add an incredible amount of technical skill and ability to our side, but also a ton of experience and leadership that will greatly benefit our younger players."

Kyle, 22, is a midfielder who scored two goals in three post-season matches in her last appearance with the team during the 2011 W-League playoffs.

Timko, 26, has played four seasons with the Whitecaps, most recently during the 2006 season. The midfielder from Oakville, Ont., scored four goals and started 25 of her 26 appearances with Vancouver.

Booth, 27, returns for her second season with the Whitecaps. The defender from Burlington, Ont., played four games for Vancouver in 2010, scoring two goals.

Recently, the trio played for Canada in the women's Olympic qualifying tournament in January. They are in residency camp with the national team in Vancouver in preparation for the 2012 London Olympics.

The team opens its season on May 13 against Highlanders FC in Victoria.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

What a kick

"We're ecstatic to add players the quality of Melanie, Kaylyn and Brittany."

Jesse Symons, Whitecaps women's coach

Michael Rafferty trial

Closing arguments next

The trial of the man accused of killing eight-year-old Victoria Stafford is now poised to hear closing arguments. The defence has finished its evidence.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Alleged killing

Manitoba soldier pleads to manslaughter

A Manitoba-based soldier accused of beating a man to death has pleaded guilty to manslaughter.

Jason John Ouimet was a gunner at Canadian Forces Base Shilo.

Ouimet had been charged with second-degree murder, but that was downgraded under a plea bargain when he pleaded guilty to the lesser count in the death of Duane John Lacquette.

Police said the 21-year-old victim died from blunt-force trauma at his Brandon home in January 2010.

Ouimet will face a sentencing hearing on June 7.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Hearing set

Justice Lori Douglas

A hearing date has been set for a Manitoba judge whose explicit nude photographs appeared online.

The Judicial Council is to hold a hearing May 19.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Stealth accounting

Two sets of books?

The bureaucracy fired back Tuesday at Canada's budget watchdog over his suggestion the government kept two sets of books on the multibillion-dollar purchase of new stealth-fighter jets. Parliamentary budget officer Kevin Page said in a weekend radio interview that it seemed as if one set of books inside the Department of National Defence contained a higher cost estimate for the F-35 fighters while another, lower number was presented to the public.

"You do get the sense there were different books being kept," Page said.

A senior Defence official said his department kept only one set of books.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Key legal victory on 'claw backs' for injured veterans

A Federal Court ruling that Ottawa should stop clawing back disability benefits from former Canadian Forces members is a key legal victory for some of the country's most injured veterans, their lawyers say.

The plaintiffs, who launched a class-action lawsuit against the federal government, argued last November that the benefits were being unjustly clawed back because the payments were unfairly deemed as income.

The lawyers said that veterans' long-term disability benefits were being reduced by the amount of their disability pensions, with some of the most gravely injured not receiving any of their pension.

In a decision released Tuesday, Judge Robert Barnes agreed that the monthly Veterans Affairs pensions aren't "income benefits," and therefore can't be used to offset money they are owed.

"The practical consequences of the claimed offset is to substantially reduce or to extinguish the long-term disability coverage promised to members," Barnes wrote in his decision.

He added this would create "a particularly harsh effect on the most seriously disabled Canadian Forces members who have been released from active service."

"That is an outcome that could not reasonably have been intended and I reject it unreservedly."

Veteran John Labelle goes through screening at federal court in Halifax in November. ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Peter Driscoll, a lawyer for the veterans, said if Ottawa doesn't appeal then the decision could mean millions of dollars in retroactive compensation for the former members of the forces.

"We're overjoyed," Driscoll said in a phone interview. "We're pleased the court has found the clawbacks we've complained of are unlawful."

The federal government did not return an immediate request for comment.

Some veterans say they are losing upwards of $3,500 a month in clawbacks.

Their lawyers have said thousands of veterans are being subjected to the same practice, putting the cost of stopping it and reimbursing veterans somewhere between $270 million and $320 million.

Driscoll said his clients are expecting the money to be repaid.

"We're calling on the government of Canada to honour their ethical, moral and now legal obligation to immediately end the clawback," he said. Dennis Manuge said he hopes negotiations for compensation begin soon

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Black given a permit to live here

Surprise move.
Disgraced mogul given permit to return to Canada for one year when he's released from jail this Friday

Conrad Black — who renounced his Canadian citizenship — returns here on a special permit on Friday. RYAN REMIORZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Former media tycoon Conrad Black has been granted permission to live in Canada when he is released from a Florida prison Friday after serving time for obstruction of justice and fraud.

The Department of Citizenship and Immigration has authorized a one-year temporary resident permit for Black that starts in early May, a source confirmed.

The permit was granted on the grounds that he poses no threat to the Canadian public, a source familiar with the matter told the paper.

The 67-year-old Montreal native renounced his Canadian citizenship in 2001 after being offered a peerage in Britain's House of Lords. Black's two convictions make him criminally inadmissible for residency in Canada. But his temporary resident permit circumvents this.

The permit was granted on the grounds that he poses no threat to the Canadian public, a source familiar with the matter said.

The former head of Hollinger International media empire has spent three-and-a-half years in U.S. prisons after being convicted of fraud and obstruction of justice in 2007.

Citizenship and Immigration Minister Jason Kenney, asked about Black in Parliament, said he had given instructions that public servants would decide on Black's application independently of any input from him or his office.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Students now divided in Quebec's tuition wars

Divisions in Quebec's student protest movement erupted into public view Tuesday, with masked demonstrators disrupting a news conference held by the province's more moderate student groups.

The bizarre scene, featuring black-clad, anonymous protesters heckling the student leaders raises new questions about whether the Charest government can negotiate a settlement with demonstrators that will keep the social peace.

The two student groups holding the news conference were trying to release a series of proposals to the government, aimed at resolving a weeks-long dispute over tuition.

Because that seven-point proposal plan included a tuition freeze — something the Charest government has repeatedly called a non-starter — it's hard to imagine the government accepting it, anyway.

But according to the small group that crashed the news conference, even those proposals went too far.

The masked protesters repeatedly heckled the student leaders and at one point force an interruption of the news conference.

The third main student federation, the most hardline one — called the C.L.A.S.S.E. — will be tabling its own proposals later this week.

There's no evidence Tuesday's hecklers are formally affiliated with any official student group.

The masked demonstrators refused to reveal their identities. There have been heated disputes at recent marches. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Proposals by students

The proposals released Tuesday by two student federations call for, among other things:

- A committee to monitor management of universities.
- A limit, to three per cent of university expenses that are peripheral to education.
- A freeze on tuition.

A student wearing a clown nose with a red square shows solidarity with others opposing tuition hikes. She was in a May Day protest Tuesday, in Quebec City. JACQUES BOISSINOT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

End of an era? Cuba mulls ending travel restrictions

After controlling the comings and goings of its people for five decades, communist Cuba appears on the verge of a momentous decision to lift many travel restrictions. One senior official says a "radical and profound" change is weeks away.

The comment by Parliament Chief Ricardo Alarcon has residents, exiles and policy makers abuzz with speculation that the much-hated exit visa could be a thing of the past, even if Raul Castro's government continues to limit the travel of doctors, scientists, military personnel and others in sensitive roles to prevent a brain drain.

Other top Cuban officials have cautioned against overexcitement, leaving islanders and Cuba experts to wonder how far Havana's leaders are willing to go.

In the past 18 months, Castro has removed prohibitions on some private enterprises, legalized real estate and car sales, and allowed compatriots to hire employees, ideas that were long anathema to the government's Marxist underpinnings.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Exit visa

- **Open doors.** The move would open the door to increased emigration and make it easier for Cubans overseas to avoid forfeiting their residency rights, a fate that has befallen waves of exiles since the 1959 revolution.
- **Travel abroad.** It could also bolster the number of Cubans who travel abroad for work, increasing earnings sent home in the short term and, ultimately, investment by a new moneyed class.

Netherlands

Weed-sale ban partially in effect

A policy barring foreign tourists from buying marijuana in the Netherlands went into effect in parts of the country Tuesday, with attention focused on the southern city of Maastricht, where a cafe was warned over violating the ban and around 200 smokers marched in protest.

Weed is technically illegal in the Netherlands, but it has been sold openly for decades in small amounts in designated cafés known as "coffee shops" under the country's famed tolerance policy. Under a government policy change, as of May 1, only holders of a "weed pass" are supposed to be allowed to purchase the drug in three southern provinces. Non-residents aren't eligible for the pass, which means tourists are effectively banned. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Questions still remain over who facilitated bin Laden's stay in Pakistan

Security forces. No answers from Pakistan one year after the U.S. raid that killed world's most wanted terrorist

A Pakistani shepherd looks on while leading his livestock along a road in Abbottabad, Pakistan, where U.S. commandos killed Osama bin Laden one year ago. MUHAMMED MUHEISEN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

One year since U.S. commandos flew into this Pakistani army town and killed Osama bin Laden, Islamabad has failed to answer tough questions over whether its security forces were protecting the world's most wanted terrorist.

Partly as a result, fallout from the raid still poisons relations between Washington and Pakistan, where anti-American sentiment, support for Islamist extremism and anger at the violation of sovereignty in the operation can be summed up by a Twitter hashtag doing the rounds: #02MayBlackDay.

The Pakistani government initially welcomed the raid that killed bin Laden in his three-storey compound, but within hours the mood changed as it became clear that Pakistan's army was cut out of the operation. Any discussions over how bin Laden managed to stay undetected in Pakistan were drowned out in anger at what the army portrayed as a treacherous act by a supposed ally.

That bin Laden was living with his family near Pakistan's version of West Point — not in a cave in the mountains as many had guessed — raised eyebrows in the West. The Pakistani army was already accused of playing both sides in the campaign against militancy, providing some support against al-Qaida but keeping the Afghan Taliban as strategic allies.

A week after the raid, President Barack Obama said bin Laden had a "support network" in Pakistan and the country must investigate how he evaded capture. Pakistan responded by announcing the formation of a committee to investigate bin Laden's presence in Pakistan as well as the circumstances surrounding the U.S. raid.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Obama in Afghanistan to sign security deal

President Barack Obama is greeted by Lt.-Gen. Curtis (Mike) Scaparrotti, and U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan Ryan Crocker as he steps off Air Force One at Bagram Air Field in Afghanistan on Tuesday. CHARLES DHARAPAK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

President Barack Obama slipped into Afghanistan Tuesday night on an unannounced visit on the anniversary of the killing of 9-11 mastermind Osama bin Laden. Obama is signing an agreement cementing a U.S. commitment to the nation after the long and unpopular war comes to an end.

The partnership spells out the U.S. relationship with Afghanistan beyond 2014, covering security, economics and governance. The deal is limited in scope and essentially gives both sides political cover: Afghanistan gets its sovereignty and a promise it won't be abandoned, while the U.S. gets to end its combat mission but keep a foothold in the country.

The deal does not commit the United States to any specific troop presence or spending. But it does allow the U.S. to potentially keep troops in Afghanistan after the war ends for two specific purposes: continued training of Afghan forces and targeted operations against al-Qaida, which is present in neighbouring Pakistan but has only a nominal presence inside Afghanistan.

Officials have previously said as many as 20,000 U.S. troops may remain after the combat mission ends, but that must still be negotiated. The United States does promise to seek money from Congress every year to support Afghanistan.

Obama is joining Afghan President Hamid Karzai to sign the agreement that will broadly govern the U.S. role in Afghanistan after the American combat mission stops at the end of 2014 — 13 years after it began.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Politics

At home, Obama's Republican opponent, Mitt Romney, has retorted to the Obama campaign's suggestion that Romney might not have gone after bin Laden as Obama did.

- The president has tried to portray inconsistency in Romney's position on the merits of targeting bin Laden.

Alleged assault

Strauss-Kahn lawsuit can proceed to trial: Judge

A hotel maid's sexual-assault lawsuit against Dominique Strauss-Kahn can go forward to trial, a judge ruled Tuesday, rebuffing the former International Monetary Fund leader's diplomatic-immunity claim.

Bronx state Supreme Court Justice Douglas McKeon's ruling kept alive the civil case that emerged from a May 2011 hotel-room encounter that also spurred now-dismissed criminal charges against Strauss-Kahn, then a French presidential hopeful. The episode was the first in a series of allegations about his sexual conduct that sank his political career.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IMF head Dominique Strauss-Kahn
ANDY WONG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

$1 million in debt

'Octomom' files for bankruptcy

"Octomom" Nadya Suleman has filed for bankruptcy, saying in a filing that she has as much as $1 million in debt. Suleman said in a statement that filing for bankruptcy Monday is what's best for her children.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Social media

Facebook to users: We 'Like' organ donation

Facebook wants to help you share your organs.

Users in the United States and the U.K. can enrol as organ donors via links to official registries on the world's biggest social-networking site, said CEO Mark Zuckerberg. The links should make it easier for people who want to donate their organs to sign up. Facebook users who are already organ donors can add that information to their profile page, now known as their timeline. Zuckerberg said his friendship with Apple Inc. co-founder Steve Jobs, who had received a liver transplant before he died last year, helped spur the idea.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

U.S. feds nab 5 allegedly plotting to blow up bridge

Turning to violence. Accused plotters talked about making a statement against corporate America

Five men described by federal authorities as anarchists angry with corporate America and the government were charged Tuesday with plotting to bomb a bridge linking two wealthy Cleveland suburbs.

The men were arrested Monday night after unknowingly working with an FBI informant for months. They were charged with conspiracy and trying to bomb property used in interstate commerce.

"They talked about making a statement against corporate America and the government as some of the motivations for their actions," said U.S. Attorney Steven Dettelbach in announcing the arrests.

The alleged plotters researched explosives and obtained what they thought was C-4 explosives. The items, in fact, were harmless and the public was never at risk, because the men got the material from the informant, officials said.

Top row, from left, are Douglas Wright, Brandon Baxter and Anthony Hayne. Bottom row, from left, are Joshua Stafford and Connor Stevens. They are accused of plotting to blow up a bridge. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/FBI

All five had initial appearances Tuesday in U.S. District Court, where Magistrate Judge Greg White ordered them jailed without bond pending a hearing Monday. The charges carry possible penalties of more than 20 years in prison.

"Love you, Connor," shouted James Stevens to his son, Connor Stevens, 20, of suburban Berea, at the end of the hearing.

The other suspects were identified as Joshua S. Stafford, 23, and Anthony Hayne, 35, both of Cleveland, Brandon L. Baxter, 20, of nearby Lakewood, and Douglas L. Wright, 26, of Indianapolis.

The target of the plot was a bridge that carries a state highway over part of the Cuyahoga Valley National Park and a picturesque scenic rail line and canal towpath in the Brecksville area, about 24 kilometres south of downtown Cleveland.

The affidavit filed in court indicated that federal authorities got help from a paid confidential source who had previous robbery and other convictions and was on probation for passing bad checks. It said the informant began making contact with the suspects in October and had recorded conversations with them over the past three months.

The men also discussed other potential targets, including a law enforcement centre, oil wells or a cargo ship, according to the affidavit.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Smuggling. U.K. police arrest seven on suspicion of funding terrorism

Seven people have been arrested in Britain on suspicion of financing terrorism in Somalia by smuggling a leaf that can produce a mild high into the U.S., officials said Tuesday.

Scotland Yard said the group was arrested as part of an operation that involved Homeland Security Investigations, the investigative branch of U.S. Immigrations and Customs Enforcement.

The operation was investigating a network suspected of illegally exporting a leaf known as khat from the U.K., where it is legal, to the U.S. and Canada, where it is a controlled substance, Scotland Yard said.

"The proceeds generated by this illegal activity (were) then transferred back to Somalia," said Ross Feinstein, a spokesman for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Khat

- Khat is popular in East Africa and parts of the Arabian peninsula. Users chew on the leaf to induce feelings of euphoria.
- It has been illegal in the U.S. since 1993, but is still legal in many countries worldwide.

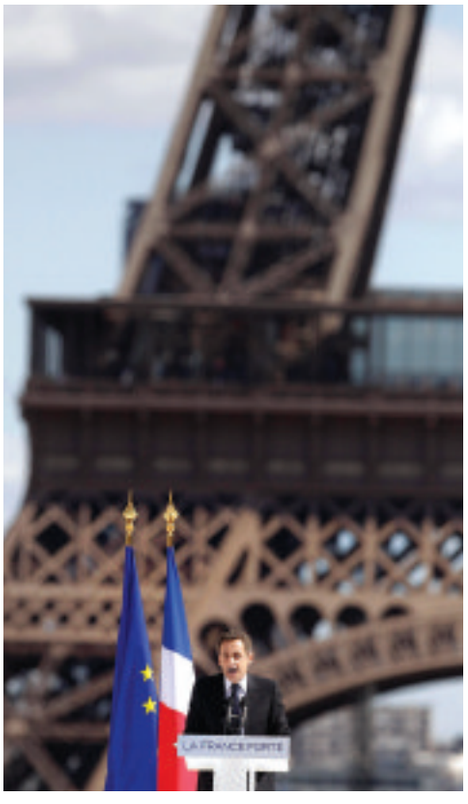
Terrorism

Man convicted of plotting New York subway attack

A man was convicted Tuesday of plotting an aborted suicide mission against New York City subways in 2009 — a case that featured the first-time testimony from admitted homegrown terrorists about al-Qaida's fixation with pulling off another attack on America soil.

A jury found Adis Medunjanin guilty of all counts for his role in a terror plot that federal authorities say was one of the closest calls since Sept. 11, 2001.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Sarkozy makes his case

French president and candidate for re-election in 2012, Nicolas Sarkozy, delivers a speech during a campaign meeting at Tocadero Square in Paris, Tuesday, complete with the Eiffel Tower in the background. MICHEL EULER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Court defends accommodations for Hudson at murder trial

Chicago. Actress is expected to attend each day of testimony

Jennifer Hudson arrives each day at the trial of the man accused of killing three of her close family members with her personal bodyguards in tow. She uses a secret entrance to elude photographers, eats in private and waits for proceedings to start in normally off-limits judge's chambers.

The Oscar winner, recently named one of the world's most beautiful women by People magazine, slips from the courtroom during particularly gory testimony.

Do the accommodations for the actress and singer add up to special star treatment?

"Absolutely not," said Irv Miller, a judge's liaison at the trial, which is into its second full week.

Most accommodations, he insisted, are courtesies routinely extended to victims enduring the grim ordeal of sitting through a murder trial. Others, he conceded, are necessary because Hudson — a 2004 American Idol finalist and 2007 Oscar winner for her role in Dreamgirls — is a celebrity.

"Star status means things have to be a little different," he said. "You just can't have a celebrity walking about, going to the cafeteria — people running up to ask for autographs."

Others, however, say the courthouse has gone too far.

"It's outrageous," said Manny Medrano, a Los Angeles-based defence attorney. "It sends the wrong signal to the world — that if you are a celebrity, you won't be treated like everyone."

Her treatment may be a result of Chicago's relative lack of experience with celebrity cases. In Southern California, said Medrano, people expect celebrities to be treated at court like everyone else.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jennifer Hudson M. SPENCER GREEN/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Olympic Games

Soldiers prep for Games missiles

Trucks carrying uniformed soldiers have fanned out around a London apartment block where the U.K. Ministry of Defence plans to place surface-to-air missiles during the Summer Olympics.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Politics

Livni steps down in Israel

Former foreign minister Tzipi Livni announced her resignation from parliament on Tuesday, weeks after she was ousted as opposition leader, in a move that could shake up Israeli politics.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

London

Wealthy fraudster to begin jail term

A London court on Tuesday ordered Michael Brown, a fugitive multi-millionaire fraudster and former donor to the U.K.'s Liberal Democrat party, to begin serving a seven-year sentence after he was extradited from Spain.

Brown was sentenced by Southwark Crown Court in 2008 on fraud charges in absentia after he fled Britain. Four former clients, including an ex-chairman of the Manchester United football club, had accused Brown of duping them out of about $65 million US.

Brown had posed as a highly successful bond dealer and claimed to have ties to royalty to extract money.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Auto sales

Chrysler sales up, truck sales down

Chrysler models were again the best-selling vehicles in Canada in April as other big name automakers reported slipping sales.

Automakers remarked on an ongoing trend in which consumers are shifting their choices from trucks to cars, hybrids and fuel-efficient vehicles amid rising gasoline prices.

Chrysler said it sold 24,540 vehicles in April, up three per cent from 2011.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR
101.44¢ US (+0.22¢)

TSX
12,332.79 (+40.09)

OIL
$106.13 US (+1.26¢)

GOLD
$1,662.40 US (-1.80¢)

Natural gas: $2.371 US (-8.6¢)
Dow Jones: 13,279.32 (+65.69)

Manufacturing

Cinram losing customers

Cinram International's long-suffering unitholders took another hit Tuesday after the DVD and CD manufacturer announced it's losing a "non-core" customer that accounts for about six per cent of overall revenue.

Cinram units (TSX:CRW.UN) dropped by 50 per cent to half a cent at mid-afternoon. The units have fallen from 66 cents a year ago and $26.50 five years ago, when it was one of the world's largest producers of recorded media. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Airline

Delta buying refinery to cut costs

Delta Air Lines is buying a refinery in a novel — and some say risky — attempt to slice $300 million a year from its escalating jet fuel bill.

The airline said Monday that it is buying a refinery near Philadelphia for $150 million from Phillips 66, a refining company being spun off from ConocoPhillips. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RIM reveals new operating system

BlackBerry. 'We're taking our time to get this right' says CEO about improved BlackBerry 10 OS

RIM CEO Thorsten Heins shows off a BlackBerry with the new operating system, which is still being tested. REINHOLD MATAY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The chief executive of Research In Motion, Thorsten Heins, stood before the developers who could play a crucial role in the company's future and gave them a first look Tuesday at the new BlackBerry 10 operating system.

The widely anticipated unveiling at its annual BlackBerry World conference centered on some awe-inspiring technological developments sandwiched between pounding club music and a heavy dose of flashing spotlights that could send any raver into a tizzy.

The three-day showcase is intended to get fickle programmers excited about the future of RIM (TSX:RIM) and developing applications for the BlackBerry 10. The Waterloo company is struggling to recover from numerous blunders over the past year, including flagging sales, a woefully underdeveloped apps store and criticism that it hasn't released a new smartphone in ages.

"We're taking our time to make sure we get this right," Heins told developers shortly before revealing the prototype at the keynote address.

"I know how much hard work went into this," he added.

Heins, who marked his 100th day atop the smartphone maker on Tuesday, then pulled a touch-screen device from his pocket running the BlackBerry 10 OS in its beta version.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Camera

A new camera excited the conference's audience.

- **One feature captures several frames in quick succession, which can be combined to create a single "ideal" picture. If one person blinked in a photo, it can be replaced with an image of their face taken moments earlier with their eyes open.**

Analysis

RIM takes blame for flashmob

BlackBerry-maker Research In Motion has admitted their role in organizing an anti-Apple flashmob outside a Sydney, Australia Apple Store last week.

The stunt, which saw dozens of black-clothed people arrive outside the Sydney store in a coach bus and wave "Wake up" signs at Apple customers inside the shop, drew criticism in the blogosphere as an "embarrassing" marketing attempt.

A number of tech-focused websites first pointed the finger at Samsung, the smartphone company known for its Apple-targeted campaigns. But Samsung denied their role in the guerrilla marketing campaign.

MacWorld Australia revealed on April 29 that they found a Double Click URL on a 'Wake Up' webpage that had ties to RIM Australia.

The campaign is said to be part of RIM's promotion for BlackBerry OS 10.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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THERE ARE NO WINNERS IN THE LINGERIE FOOTBALL LEAGUE

JUST SAYIN'
Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca/justsaying

It wasn't easy, but I'm pretty sure I've discovered the worst idea ever spawned.

If you were going to start a Museum for Morons, this would be the cornerstone: The Lingerie Football League.

Here's the "concept": teams of scantily clad women play tackle football. There are seven players to a side, and, in addition to shoulder pads and helmets, their uniforms include garters, bras and panties.

As far as I can tell, there are no male cheerleader squads in their tighty-whities, cheering on local favourites such as the Los Angeles Temptations, Lingerie Bowl champs for three years in row, or the Philadelphia Passion, last year's losers.

No league of their own

The sad thing is that despite the automatic gratuitous titillation that comes with this farce, some of the young women who play the game can actually play, and when asked, would rather play in a serious league that requires clothes. But LFL is the only game in town.

Here's the thing: The LFL is too stupid to live, at least in the U.S. The league recently announced it has shut down U.S. operations to concentrate on re-opening in April 2013 (remind you of the restaurant that's shut down for "renovations?") In the meantime, the only teams on the field in 2012 will be in — wait for it — Canada.

Apparently there are enough hosers left in the Great White North to watch women humiliate themselves for nothing. The league stopped paying players at the beginning of the 2011 season. If they get hurt in those ridiculous getups, tough. They pay their own health insurance, except in Canada where you and I pay for their health care.

There are four teams set to begin the season: the BC Angels, the Toronto Triumph, and to the eternal shame of Saskatchewan, the Regina Rage and the Saskatoon Sirens. The teams will play eight games, culminating in the Canadian Lingerie Bowl the day before the Grey Cup. The CFL should sue for unwanted proximity.

The sad thing is (but not the only sad thing! There's a plethora of sad things!) that despite the automatic gratuitous titillation that comes with this farce, some of the young women who play the game can actually play, and when asked, would rather play in a serious league that requires clothes. But LFL is the only game in town. Actually four towns. In Canada.

It will be interesting to see if any of these games are actually played. And if they are, if anyone shows up to watch. Even the most dedicated fans of the Rage or the Angels will be hard-pressed to explain where they're going instead of mowing the lawn or power-washing the deck: "Oh, just to watch a football game played by women in their sexy lingerie. Some of the girls can, um, play."

Toronto Triumph, in blue, host the Baltimore Charm in Lingerie Football League action at the Ricoh Coliseum in Toronto in this file photo.
VINCE TALOTTA/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

No need for the pouch

GETTY IMAGES

Baby in a bag

Baby wallaby bags new home

DUNSTABLE, ENGLAND. A tiny baby wallaby has been saved and is now being raised inside a backpack. Tilly, a seventh-month-old Bennett's wallaby, is being hand-reared by Whipsnade Zoo keepers using a rucksack and blanket as a substitute marsupium after being found out of her mother's pouch. **METRO**

Pouch of safety

- After birth, wallabies immediately crawl into their mothers' pouches where they continue to develop after birth. Young wallabies, like kangaroos, are called joeys. Even after a joey leaves the pouch, it often returns to jump in to evade danger.

Zoo staff expect Tilly to live in the bag for another two months.
GETTY IMAGES

Bag lady

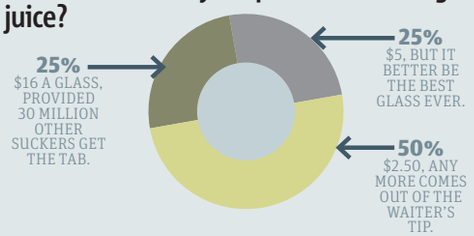
"She spends most of the day snuggled up in her rucksack with a blanket, where she's warm and safe, but has started to become more adventurous, hopping about and venturing out a bit more."

Jo Shirley, Whipsnade Zoo keeper

Metropolitan Panel

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

How much would you spend for an orange juice?


25%
$16 A GLASS, PROVIDED 30 MILLION OTHER SUCKERS GET THE TAB.
25%
$5, BUT IT BETTER BE THE BEST GLASS EVER.
50%
$2.50, ANY MORE COMES OUT OF THE WAITER'S TIP.

Twitter

@respsask: Thanks to @playlendtoys for making my daughter's birthday party so much fun!! http://www.playlendtoys.com #yxe

@RollerDerbyGal: South East Sask. #RollerDerby Assoc (SESRDA) attracts crowd during debut!

@millertimesz: Still mad #bachcan didn't make a stop in #SK but now I hear he played for the Eskimos looks like we may have dodged a bullet. #ridernation

@mrscizz: @FriedgeHNIC great piece on Holtby last night. All Saskatoon Blades fans are cheering for him. Great Kid, Great Family!

@OilCountry_Joe: Release the new @sskroughriders <jersey already! I'm dying to find out what I'm wearing this season!! #RiderNation

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Javier Bardem, left, stands with Daniel Craig. The two square off in the new James Bond film. DAVID DETTMAN/METRO WORLD NEWS

Fall in love with a villain

New Bond film. Javier Bardem wants you to sympathize with his character as he tries to kill James Bond

KIERON MONKS
Metro World News

It's a dirty job trying to kill James Bond, but Javier Bardem does not believe he is the bad guy.

"Actors are the lawyers of our characters and we defend them no matter what," he smiles.

Penelope Cruz's husband is serious when he describes super-villain Raoul Silva as a "very complex character."

His attempt to win sympathy for the devil was inspired by Bruno Ganz's performance as Adolf Hitler in The Downfall.

Bardem already looks bulletproof. In 2007, the 53 year-old became the first Spaniard ever to win an Oscar, for playing psychopathic killer in No Country For Old Men, and his casting opposite 007 confirms his rise to Hollywood royalty status.

"This is only my second commercial movie, the territory is still new to me," says Bardem, who spent most of his career in low-budget, experimental cinema. "But, for me, it's the same. The set is bigger, the money is bigger, but the commitment is the same."

He has enjoyed his duel with "impressive" Daniel Craig, although Bardem did not share his rival's love of the gym, and kept in shape by eating only fish and vegetables. Although happy to play the villain, life-long Bond fan Bardem would not rule out a job swap to wear the tuxedo in future.

"I'm open, but Daniel is doing a great job."

Online

Want more bond?

- **Website.** Go online to metronews.ca/features for our complete look at 50 years of James Bond movies.

Spoiler alert

Prediction time: Look out for these...

- **M dies.** A shock as the MI6 chief has been with the series since the beginning. Judi Dench has played M for seven films but rumours persist this will be the last.
- **Spy feelings.** Daniel Craig is credited with bringing more humanity to 007, and he says we "get to know him better" in Skyfall. Part of this involves seeing his home for the first time, and possibly discovering that he leaves all his washing up in the sink.
- **The best of both worlds.** Key scenes will take place in Asia. Bond will confront villain Silva on the Japanese Island of Hashima, and test his luck in a gorgeously designed Macau casino. But expect plenty of action in London, including an epic chase.

CFL wide receiver Brad Smith. HANDOUT

CFL wide receiver. Brad Smith to seek soulmate as star of Bachelor Canada

Canadian Football League wide receiver Brad Smith will seek his soulmate as the star of The Bachelor Canada when it premieres in the fall.

The program will be modelled after the popular U.S reality show The Bachelor.

A statement from Rogers Media describes Smith as "driven, confident, candid and comfortable in his own skin."

It goes on to say he is attracted to women "who are independent, intelligent, and just as confident in a ponytail, sweatpants and sweatshirt as they are all dressed up for a night out on the town."

The 28-year-old athlete says he's "extremely honoured" to be chosen, adding that he takes the experience very seriously and believes in the process. Additional details, including the identity of the host and the 25 bachelorettes, are still to be revealed.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

2 SCENE

Scene in brief

Genie's and Gemini's become one show

Canada's top film and television awards bashes are being combined into a single televised ceremony. The Academy of Canadian Cinema & Television says it is merging annual broadcasts of the Genie Awards, which salute the best in film, and the Gemini Awards, which celebrate homegrown television. Academy chair Martin Katz says the move follows "extensive industry consultation and outreach." The next gala will be a two-hour event on March 3, 2013 airing on CBC-TV. The annual Gemeaux Awards will celebrate French-language television and digital media on Radio-Canada on Sept. 16, as previously announced. Shows currently eligible for the 2012 Gemini Awards will be part of the academy's new awards show in March 2013.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

On the web

Wheel of Fortune and Jeopardy dropped from CBC-TV fall schedule

Meet (and re-meet) the Avengers

Star-studded film. Here are a few of the movies that helped shape this group of actors into stars

IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse
scene@metronews.ca

The Avengers stars a group of actors who were well known before they donned the capes and mechanical suits of Iron Man, Captain America, Thor and The Hulk.

Of them, Robert Downey Jr. was the best known, while the Chrises, Evans and Hemsworth were talented up-and-comers and Mark Ruffalo was the Oscar-nominated indie king.

With the film breaking box office records in its worldwide release, it's fair to say each of these actors will now go from superheroes to superstars.

But what about before they could leap tall buildings in a single bound? (I know that was Superman, but you get my point!) Here are some movies that helped shape this quartet of actors into stars.

Robert Downey Jr., Chris Evans, Chris Hemsworth and Mark Ruffalo star in The Avengers. HANDOUT

Robert Downey Jr.

Despite saying, "I know very little about acting. I'm just an incredibly gifted faker," Downey has developed into what Esquire called "the second best actor in the world."

Ten years ago, however, Downey was better known for his extracurricular activities than his films. His committed, loopy performances made him a star at a young age and netted him an Oscar nomination for playing Charlie Chaplin, but drugs and alcohol sidelined him until 2001 when, clean and sober, he rebuilt his career.

MUST SEES: Less Than Zero, Natural Born Killers, Chaplin, Good Night & Good Luck, Richard III.

Chris Evans

Evans played a superhero in Fantastic Four and its sequel, but it took Captain America to make him an A-list star.

He's flip-flopped between mainstream fare like Not Another Teen Movie and edgier films like The Loss of a Teardrop Diamond, to "show some layers. I'm not just a superhero-action guy."

MUST SEES: Scott Pilgrim vs. the World, Puncture, Fierce People.

Chris Hemsworth

Hemsworth made his American debut as George Kirk, father to the icon character James T. in the reboot of Star Trek.

Already a soap (Home and Away) and reality show (Dancing with the Stars) star in Australia, the muscle bound performer beat out dozens of actors to win the role of Thor, including his own brother Liam Hemsworth.

MUST SEES: Cabin in the Woods, A Perfect Getaway.

Mark Ruffalo

Early comparisons to Marlon Brando earned Ruffalo roles in an interesting array of films. Playing Laura Linney's slacker brother in You Can Count on Me made him a star and indie film darling.

MUST SEES: My Life Without Me, Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind, Shutter Island, The Kids Are All Right.

Once leads Tony Award nominations

The low-tech musical Once, based on the love story of a Czech flower seller and an Irish street musician in Dublin, received a leading 11 Tony Award nominations Tuesday, proving sentiment can sway nominators just as much as special effects.

Two other musicals — The Gershwins' Porgy and Bess and Nice Work If You Can Get It — each got 10 nominations as the Tony committee spread the wealth. Unlike last year's The Book of Mormon, no monster single hit dominated the nominations.

Once, with songs by Marketa Irglova and Glen Hansard, was originally a low-budget movie made for about $150,000. The film earned $20 million, thanks in part to an original score that included the sublime 2007 Oscar-winning song, Falling Slowly. The musical is a study in how to beautifully adapt a movie to the stage.

Its director, John Tiffany, was sitting at a play in Glasgow, Scotland, when his phone began buzzing "like crazy" with word of the show's success. He sat through the play but learned about the Tony haul after glancing at texts.

"It's just brilliant. It's incredible because it's such a delicate, unassuming show. But Once constantly surprises me. I think it's the power of the music and the storytelling that people connect with," said Tiffany, who was nominated for best director of a musical.

Steve Kazee, left, and Cristin Milioti are shown in a scene from Once in New York.
BONEAU/BRYAN-BROWN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

His show earned its stars, Steve Kazee and Cristin Milioti, best actor in a musical nominations. It also earned nods for best scenic design, best book of a musical and Elizabeth A. Davis got a nomination for an actress in a featured role.

"I think it's a universal message about love. Not just between two people, but a love of music, a love of your country, how we share things as people," Kazee said. "There are moments that are just snapshots in your life but they stay with you forever. We all have those moments."

Peter and the Starcatcher, a play about the origins of Peter Pan, earned nine nominations, while the fall revival of Follies and the new Disney musical Newsies got eight nods each.

Later this summer, Once, Nice Work If You Can Get It and Newsies will compete for the title of best musical with a surprise entry — Leap of Faith, which was ravaged by critics. Ghost the Musical, an import from London with songs by Dave Stewart and Glen Ballard, failed to get nominated in the best musical category.

The Tony Awards will be broadcast on CBS from the Beacon Theatre on June 10. Neil Patrick Harris, the star of How I Met Your Mother, will be the host.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The cast is shown from the musical Newsies.
DISNEY THEATRICAL PRODUCTIONS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nominations

- The best new play category includes Clybourne Park by Bruce Norris, Peter and the Starcatcher by Rick Elice, and David Ives' Venus in Fur.
- In the musical revival category, Follies and The Gershwins' Porgy and Bess will compete against two Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice works: Jesus Christ Superstar and Evita.
- Broadway's most expensive show, the $75 million Spider-Man: Turn Off the Dark, got only two nominations, for best scenic design and costume.

Fighting myths of growing up in LGBT family

My Two Moms.
20-year-old shares story of being raised by lesbian parents, dedicates book to sister

MEREDETH ENGELS
Metro New York

Zach Wahls lit up YouTube last year with his speech to the Iowa House Judiciary Committee in favor of same-sex marriage. Wahls is understandably passionate about the issue: He was raised in Iowa, with his biological sister, by a lesbian couple.

His powerful conclusion that "the sexual orientation of my parents has had zero effect on the content of my character" drew legions of supporters and fans, and the now-20-year-old is sharing his experiences in a new book, "My Two Moms: Lessons of Love, Strength, and What Makes a Family" (out Thursday). He spoke with Metro about his journey thus far.

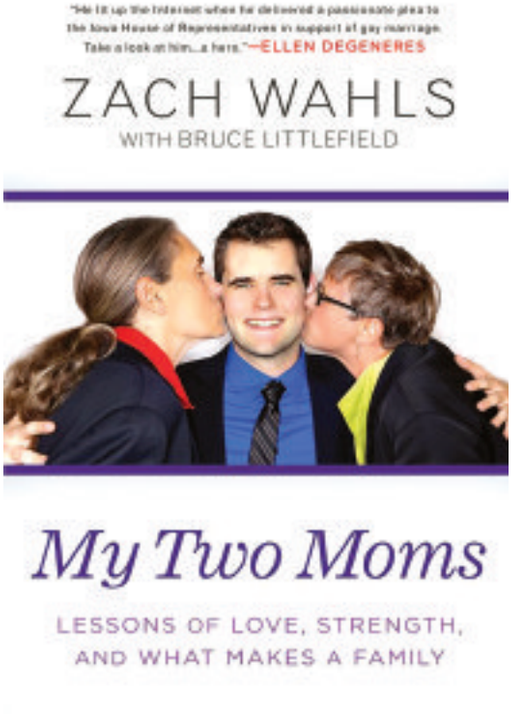
How did your speech in front of the Iowa House of Representatives come about?

In 2009, I was the columns editor for my high school newspaper. That spring the Supreme Court rules in this unanimous decision in Iowa to legalize same-sex marriage. I was really happy about that, so I wrote a column that was noticed by the law firm that had litigated Varnum v. Brien, the lawsuit that resulted in the legalization of same-sex marriage in Iowa. I met the communications director, and I didn't hear from her for a year.

Then, all of a sudden, I got a Facebook message, an email and a phone call on a Thursday afternoon saying, "There's this hearing on Monday, can you make it?" So I wrote my testimony over the weekend and then showed up on Monday night. By Wednesday, the video was starting to blow up. By Friday, the video was on its way to becoming the No. 1 YouTube political video of 2011. I still have difficulty wrapping my head around the whole thing sometimes.

Is your life much different now?

It is and it isn't. I spend a lot less time actually at my apartment in Iowa City. I made some new friends, but I'm still hanging out with the same guys, doing the same things. In some ways things are different, but in the majority of ways that matter most, they're the same.


Take a look at him...a hero."—ELLEN DEGENERES
ZACH WAHLS
WITH BRUCE LITTLEFIELD
My Two Moms
LESSONS OF LOVE, STRENGTH, AND WHAT MAKES A FAMILY

Ellen DeGeneres called you a hero when you appeared on her show. How did that feel?

It's a label that makes me kind of uncomfortable sometimes, but I think more to the point, it's a testament to the values that my moms instilled in me and the effort they put in to raise my sister and me. I feel incredibly blessed to have the parents I have.

Has your father, with whom you don't have a relationship, reached out to you since all this has happened?

He was an anonymous sperm donor. We don't have any idea who he is — he doesn't even know that we exist.

I think it would certainly be interesting to meet him and learn more about him, but I don't have any interest in seeking him out.

What do you hope readers take away from this book?

I hope people understand the love and commitment that my moms have for each other, but also the love and commitment that binds us as a family. My hope is that this book is able to serve as a reminder that we are more alike than different.

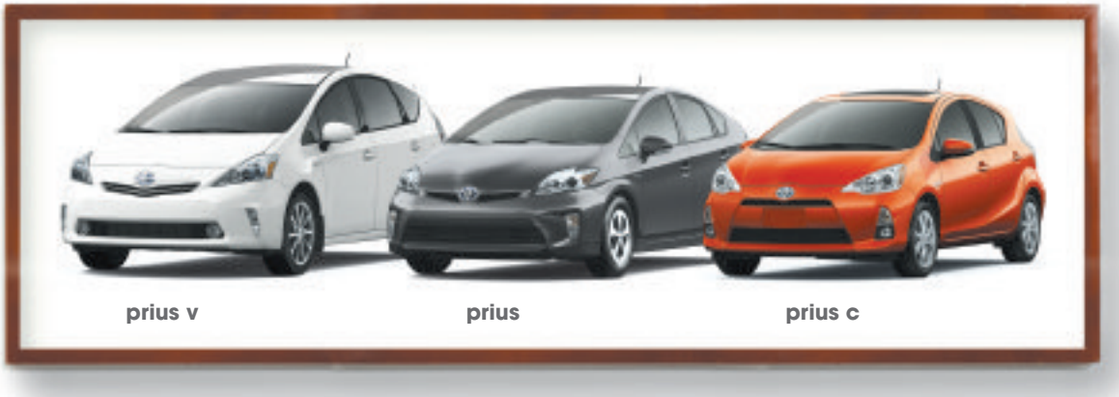
Why did you dedicate the book to your younger sister, Zebby?

I wanted her to know just how much she means to me and how important it was for me to have her along for the ride. But then also, more metaphorically, she's one of the kids that I'm trying to talk to with this book.

The reason I decided to write the book was because I think that there is misinformation, so many myths and stereotypes being perpetuated by some people, that other young kids who have LGBT parents need to know — that despite what some of the talking heads on TV might say, they aren't damaged goods or child abuse victims or brainwashed or whatever.

And that's an important message I think to hear from one of us. Your parents are not gonna be the most unbiased forces, so I think having one of our own stand up and speak this truth, the power is really important.

enter the pick your prius contest for your chance to win a new family member.



visit metronews.ca/pickyourpriuscontest to enter for your chance to win the prius of your choice*:

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*no purchase necessary. contest closes May 13, 2012. to register and for full contest details visit www.metronews.ca/pickyourpriuscontest.

John Mayer ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Singing to let it sink in: Mayer's new song about getting over Aniston

John Mayer is reportedly using Shadow Days, a song off his new album, to finally process the end of his relationship with Jennifer Aniston, according to Us Weekly.

"It really took him a long time to get over her. He really loved her a lot," a source says. "He wrote the song as a farewell letter knowing (Jen) would hear it. Ultimately he's done a lot of self-reflection though, and he realizes they weren't right for each other."

In the video for the song, Mayer drives along a lonely desert road, singing, "I finally learned to let it go."

Zoe Saldana

Midlife crisis? Nothing wrong with getting breast implants, says Saldana

Zoe Saldana says she isn't against getting breast augmentation surgery as a pick-me-up.

As Saldana sees it, if "an old man was having a midlife crisis and can buy a Porsche and date a 17-year-old, I can buy myself a pair and be the sexiest soccer mom you've ever seen," she says in an interview with Amanda de Cadenet.

"As long as you're doing it for reasons that are balanced for you (it's OK). It's not even about judging what's right or wrong. There's nobody on this earth who can tell you that what you're feeling is wrong."

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Jessica finally has that baby

THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

Although Jessica Simpson didn't have the longest pregnancy in the world, it certainly felt like she did.

Well, the eternal wait ended yesterday with Simpson and her fiancé Eric Johnson announcing the birth (finally!) of daughter Maxwell Drew Johnson on Simpson's website.

The baby was certainly well-marinated, weighing in at 9 lbs, 13 oz. But lest Maxwell Drew get all the attention, let's look at which other celebrities popped out a baby while we were all fixated on Simpson's ever-expanding waistline.

• Maggie Gyllenhaal and Peter Sarsgaard welcomed daughter Gloria Ray on April 19 in New York City, her rep confirmed to E! News.

• Katherine Heigl and husband Josh Kelley expanded their family and adopted another daughter, according to People magazine. The baby's name and other details are not yet available.

• It was announced in March that Charlize Theron adopted a baby. "She is the proud mom of a healthy baby boy named Jackson," her rep told People magazine.

• Simpson's ex, Dallas Cowboys quarterback Tony Romo and his wife Candice Crawford welcomed their first child on April 9, his NFL teammates announced on Twitter.

The only birth to overshadow Simpson's?

• Beyoncé and Jay-Z welcoming daughter Blue Ivy Carter in January.

Of course, they are our version of royalty, whereas Jessica Simpson is a reality TV star/shoemaker who hasn't had a hit song in at least a decade.

So why all the attention on her uterus? The world may never know. For now, let's breathe a sigh of relief and enjoy this time of non-Simpson-womb-watching. That is, until the photos of Maxwell surface in the highest-bidder tabloid, say, next week.

Maggie Gyllenhaal

Gyllenhaal welcomes baby girl after keeping mum on pregnancy

Maggie Gyllenhaal and Peter Sarsgaard welcomed their second daughter, Gloria Ray, last week, their rep confirms to People magazine. The pair, who married in 2009, also have a 5-year-old daughter, Ramona.

Gloria Ray was born April 19 in New York. Gyllenhaal kept mum on her pregnancy this time around as long as she could — which wasn't easy.

"I find it difficult to pretend you're not pregnant, which I had to do," she told USA Today in March. "I didn't let anyone know until three-and-a-half months this time. I went to film festivals. I'm throwing up in the bathroom and having to keep pretzels in my purse, and having to fit into dresses."

Jason Segel

Man behind Muppets wins over Williams' 6-year-old daughter

For Jason Segel, part of winning new girlfriend Michelle Williams' heart was winning over her 6-year-old daughter, Matilda, according to Us Weekly.

"I never thought Jason would ever date someone with a kid," a source close to the How I Met Your Mother star says. "But he's taking everything in stride. He's ready to be a grown-up."

And apparently his charms are working. "Jason knows how to entertain children," the source says of the man behind the Muppets revival. "You can't be that obsessed with puppets and not learn a few things."

Twitter

@alecbaldwin
If everyone that follows me sent me $20, I would be able to finally have some well-deserved peace and quiet...

@BetteMidler
People, I have just recovered from being a clue in @NYTimes Crossword puzzle yesterday...

@SaraKSilverman
Fun fact: despite all the dirty tweets I send, the one about this march for women has received the most hate mail

@SethMacFarlane
If you have ever pinned a "Cathy" strip to the wall of your cubicle, I am content for us to remain strangers.

Tourists look through a crack in a still-existing portion of the Berlin Wall at the main memorial . METRO WORLD NEWS

5 Berlin Surprises

Think Berlin is simply a city of bad graffiti and raves? Au contraire! We found some chilled out lounges and delicious food.

METRO WORLD NEWS

1 Unexpectedly good aesthetic

Despite what you see in the movies, it's not all Soviet concrete (though there's a fair share) — Berlin is an interesting mix of Paris meets the Ukraine. The result is surprisingly pretty, and the city's Bauhaus School sensibility stamps industrial design, architecture, even kitchenware. Be sure to visit the Bauhus Archiv, and then spot influences throughout the city.

Bauhaus Archiv
Klingelhöferstraße 14
10785 Berlin, Germany
+49 30 2540-020

2 There's chilled-out local bars

OD'd on IDM? When you're ready to recover from the raves, take a break from the glo sticks at this sophisticated but relaxed bar. Scotch and Sofa boasts a décor that screams junk sale-meets-Mad Men, but the crowd is diverse and definitely local to the up-and-coming Prenzlauer Berg 'hood. Look for an excellent cocktail menu and generous pours.

Scotch and Sofa
Kollwitzstraße 18
10405 Berlin
+4930 44042371
+49 30 2540-020

3 Live music in an intimate setting

Not a raver but still looking for a night 'out'? Try Das Hotel. It's a bar-cum-jazz club jammed into a shopfront, with a labyrinth of nooks rather than rooms to post up. Enjoy the live jazz and sip whisky. How civilized. (And smoker alert! You can smoke inside here.) Cash only so be prepared.

Das Hotel
Mariannenstrase 26A
10999 Berlin
+493084118433
dashotelclassic.blogspot.co.uk

4 Terrific Asian food?!?!

Balance the famous currywurst with light and spicy meals that surpass your expectations. Popular spot Monsieur Vuong has an achingly small menu (enough to inspire panic when you're first seated) but fast service and knockout Vietnamese pho. Daily specials round out the offering. Local treasure Minh Quang is completely unassuming but inexpensive, fast and great food. Make sure you try the homemade lemonade.

Monsieur Vuong
Alte Schönhauser Straße 46
10119 Berlin-Mitte
+4930 9929 6924

Minh Quang
Greifswalder Straße 216
10405 Berlin
+49 30 44352062

5 Unexpected market shopping

The Mauerpark Flohmarkt —"Mauerpark" means "wallpark" and used to be an area enclosed by the Berlin Wall —sells antiques, records, homemade jewelry and more. Top it off with a nod to the city's Turkish population at the massive lunch counter serving eastern delicacies.

Walk to the market by starting at the corner of Bernauer Strasse and Gartenstrasse, and see sections of the wall and the memorial on the way.

Mauerpark Flohmarkt
mauerparkmarkt.de
Berlin Wall Memorial
Bernauer Straße 111
13355 Berlin-Mitte

3 LIFE

Travel in brief

Last minute booking? There's an app for that

For those times when you suddenly need a hotel room but have no idea where to book, a new mobile app that launched in Canada last Thursday promises to find the best deal for a last-minute stay. According to Sam Shank, there's a multi-billion-dollar business opportunity in offering cut-rate hotel rooms with mere hours to spare.

The CEO of the mobile app HotelTonight, now available in Toronto and Vancouver, says there's big money in helping hotels clear out their inventory at the last minute. And he says needing a hotel room with no advance notice is a surprisingly common dilemma, especially among business travellers. "We're going after the spontaneous or last-minute need," says Shank, noting he doesn't recommend that thrifty travellers hold off on booking a hotel until the day of their trip. It's for "people who woke up in the morning and didn't realize they were going to need or want a hotel room. Starting at noon local time each day, users loading up HotelTonight's Apple or Android app can search for offers available that night, with the option of extending the reservation by an additional four nights.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

On the web

Website names top 50 people's choice restaurants in Canada

Attention lobster lovers. Three-day course in New Brunswick is just for you

Learn about lobsters this summer. KEVIN BISSETT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Consumers increasingly want to know where their food comes from and the town of St. Andrews, N.B., is offering lobster lovers some tasty education along with its spectacular scenery.

Imagine taking a three-day course where the curriculum offers the chance to eat lobster and other fresh seafood every meal of the day.

If you're now daydreaming about wearing a lobster bib and wiping melted butter from your chin, then the Lobster Lovers Academy might be the place for you.

St. Andrews, on the coast of the Bay of Fundy, is well known for its spectacular views and many seafood-focused restaurants and take-outs. For the last four years, St. Andrews has hosted a lobster academy to educate buyers for restaurants and food chains on everything they need to know about lobsters — from buying them to proper handling and preparation.

This year, for the first time, the program is being offered to the general public as the Lobster Lovers Academy.

"We said let's build an eco-culinary vacation opportunity and experience for these consumers, and it has been so well received," said spokeswoman Christina Ferranti-Clift. "We're very excited about the upcoming event."

Participants must apply in advance for the June 7-10 event, which costs $999 per person. That includes three nights accommodation in historic Anderson House, meals (including all the lobster you can eat) and a number of excursions.

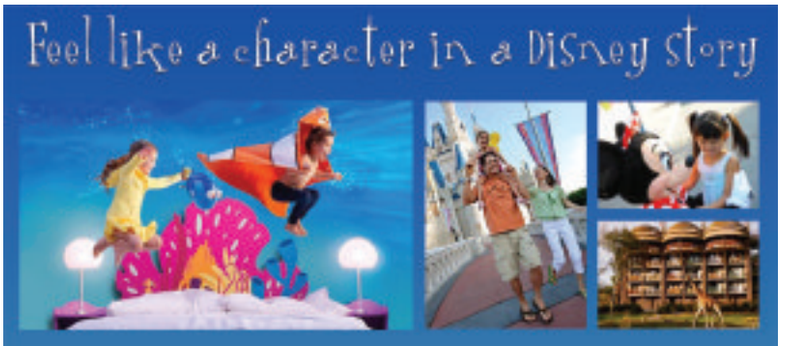
Ferranti-Clift said the first full day of the academy is a busy one. After a breakfast that includes Lobster Benedict, everyone is taken to the wharf to learn what it's like to be a lobster fisherman.

"Everyone goes out on the boat and hoists lobster traps. We'll tour some of the Bay of Fundy by boat, which is amazingly gorgeous."

"We have a lunch of lobster rolls at the famous lobster shack on Deer Island. Then we go over to the plant to see what happens when the fishermen off-load their catch. It's long day."

Then it's off to the classroom and kitchen to learn more about lobster and how to cook it. "You'll learn how to pair it with different wines, or the various ways to prepare it," Ferranti-Clift said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



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VISIT clubmetro.com TO ENTER

To register and for full contest details visit clubmetro.com.

As to Disney properties/artwork: ©Disney. As to Disney/Pixar properties/artwork: ©Disney/Pixar.

A wild time awaits in South Africa

Touring. The Travellin' Canadian mixes wine, cheetahs and an ostrich ride on this 12-day adventure

THE TRAVELLIN' CANADIAN
Darren Parkman
travel@metronews.ca

You need to be under 140 pounds to ride the ostriches.

The wilds of South Africa may not be as far off as you think, especially if you're willing to get down and dirty and rough it just a tad.

I admit, I'm no stranger to luxury hotels with mints on the pillow, but perhaps it was time to trade room service and pay per view movies for a tent in the middle of the plains. And I'm all the better for it.

The aptly named "On the Go" tour company offers one adventurous, action-packed 12-day tour, that takes you out in the wild, and away from the comforts of all those boring five star hotels.

It may not be for the faint hearted, but for the more adventurous it's an unforgettable tour by tent.

I learned a lot from this experience ... for instance, who knew that wine went so well with cheetahs?

Not far from Capetown lies one of South Africa's oldest towns, Stellenbosch, a gorgeous growing region, rich with vineyards and award-winning vino. Even cooler is the fact that nestled among this picturesque wine country is a sanctuary for one of Africa's deadliest predators, the cheetah.

Luckily these aren't the lightening fast Zebra killing kind of cheetahs, but instead the friendly, almost lazy kind. For a small price you can even pet these lounging cats.

They were so friendly it almost seemed like they'd been sampling the wine in the area. Another highlight of this tour lies in another town with an impressive reputation.

Oudtshoorn has the distinction of being the ostrich capital of the world. Need I say more. Here, you can actually pet, race and yes, even ride ... you guessed it, big ostriches!

Sadly, you must be under 140 pounds to mount these mammoth birds, so I had to be content to watch others enjoy the ride. Luckily, none of the birds stuck their heads in the sand during the run. Now that could have been painful. Other highlights on this Garden Route tour include an option to dive with great white sharks, and a visit to Addo Elephant National Park.

With a base price under $900 bucks for the 12-day tour, it's a good adventure for the money!

Other cool things to do...

- **Check out Capetown.** Kristenbosch Botanical Gardens, the famous Table Mountain and an impressive outdoor market are just a few of the must sees in this great city.
- **Visit the DeHoop Nature Reserve.** Home to more than 85 species of mammals including the rare Cape Mountain Zebra. In the summer it's also a whale watcher's paradise.

These cheetahs like lounging more than hunting. PHOTOS: DARREN PARKMAN

Celebrate fresh & light flavours of spring with delicious roasted fare

Look for local lamb at the market or in stores now as spring is always a favourite time of year to cook it up. This recipe is perfect for a Sunday dinner to share with family and friends.

1. In a small bowl, stir together Dijon, rosemary, garlic and olive oil.

2. Place lamb in a roasting pan and rub marinade over entire surface of the lamb. Roast lamb in the centre of a 190 C (375 F) oven for 60 to 90 minutes or until internal temperature reaches 52 C (125 F) at the thickest point for medium rare. Roast longer for desired doneness. Let lamb rest for 30 minutes before slicing.

3. Walnut Salsa: Meanwhile, in a bowl, stir together chopped walnuts, parsley, mint, anchovies, capers, peppercorns, oil, lemon rind and juice until combined. Spoon over sliced lamb to serve.

THE CANADIAN PRESS/ WALNUTINFO.COM/ ADAPTED BY EMILY RICHARDS, A PROFESSIONAL HOME ECONOMIST, COOKBOOK AUTHOR AND TV CELEBRITY CHEF. VISIT EMILYRICHARDSCOOKS.CA

Ingredients

- 30 ml (2 tbsp) Dijon mustard
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) chopped fresh rosemary
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) olive oil
- 1 kg (2 lb) boneless leg of lamb

Walnut Salsa:

- 250 ml (1 cup) chopped walnuts
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) each chopped fresh parsley and mint
- 6 anchovy fillets, minced
- 60 ml (1/4 cup) capers, rinsed and chopped
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) green peppercorns in brine, drained and minced
- 75 ml (1/3 cup) walnut oil
- 10 ml (2 tsp) grated lemon rind
- 45 ml (3 tbsp) lemon juice

Roasted Lamb

This recipe serves four to six people. THE CANADIAN PRESS HANDOUT

Drink of the Week

Chocolate Covered Pretzel

While little kids enjoy chocolate covered pretzels, this is the adult version of the timeless snack.

A mix of luscious Frangelico liqueur and whipped cream flavoured vodka, it's perfect as a sweet and salty shot.

Take the Chocolate Covered Pretzel shot by pouring salt on your hand followed by the drink.

1. Shake with ice, pour into a shot glass. Lick salt then take the Chocolate Covered Pretzel shot.

- 1 oz Frangelico
- 1 oz Pinnacle Whipped Vodka

SKYY SPIRITS

Roasted tomatoes employ just the right amount of nuts

This recipe serves four. MATTHEW MEAD/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nuts often get a bad rap because of their high fat content. But the fat in most nuts is the healthy unsaturated variety.

The trick is moderation. And because nuts are so rich, moderation can be easy. All that rich flavour means it doesn't take much to feel satisfied. Whether you prefer to incorporate them in a dish, sprinkle them on a salad, or snack them by the handful, they are a great choice for healthy eating.

Nuts generally have a deeper flavour when toasted. To toast raw nuts, place them on a dry baking sheet and roast for 10 to 12 minutes at 350 F. Keep a close eye on them because they go from toasted to burnt very quickly.

The freezer is the best place to store nuts. All their healthy oils put them at risk for going rancid. Place them in a zip-close plastic bag and squeeze out the air before freezing.

This recipe showcases walnuts in a composed salad of roasted tomatoes and creamy, herbed ricotta cheese. For a great dinner, serve this alongside a piece of crusty multigrain bread with some greens and a grilled chicken breast.

1. Heat the oven to 325 F. Place a wire rack over a rimmed baking sheet. Spray the rack with cooking spray.

2. Arrange the tomatoes on the rack, cut sides up. Sprinkle the tomatoes with the salt, sugar and white pepper. Roast for 1 hour. Flip the tomatoes over and roast for another hour, or until the tomatoes are soft, wrinkly and have shrunken considerably in size.

3. While the tomatoes are roasting, in a medium bowl stir together the ricotta, basil, thyme and oregano. Set aside to allow the flavours to meld.

4. Serve the herbed ricotta alongside the roasted tomato halves. Sprinkle with toasted walnuts and drizzle lightly with balsamic vinegar, if using.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/ ADAPTED BY EMILY RICHARDS, PROFESSIONAL HOME ECONOMIST, COOKBOOK AUTHOR AND TV CELEBRITY CHEF. FOR MORE, VISIT EMILYRICHARDSCOOKS.CA

Ingredients

- 4 large tomatoes, halved and cored
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon ground white pepper
- 1 cup low-fat ricotta cheese
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh basil
- 2 teaspoons chopped fresh thyme
- 2 teaspoons chopped fresh oregano
- 1/4 cup chopped walnuts
- Balsamic vinegar (optional)

Rosemary-Cider Brined Pork. Perfectly tender

1. In a small saucepan over medium heat, combine salt, sugar, cider, rosemary, thyme and chili powder. Stir just until sugar and salt are dissolved. Let cool completely.

2. In a large resealable plastic bag, combine pork loin and brine solution. Squeeze out any air and seal bag shut. Place in a bowl in case of any leaks, then refrigerate for 24 hours.

3. About 30 minutes before you are ready to cook, heat oven to 180 C (350 F). Place a rack into your roasting pan.

4. Drain pork and discard brine solution. Rinse pork with cool water, then pat it dry with paper towels. Rub surface of pork with oil and place on the rack. Roast for about 45 minutes or until a thermometer reads 68 C (155 F) at the centre of the pork. Let rest for 15 minutes before slicing.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/ ADAPTED BY EMILY RICHARDS (FOR MORE, VISIT EMILYRICHARDSCOOKS.CA)

Ingredients

- 50 ml (1/4 cup) kosher salt
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) packed brown sugar
- 500 ml (2 cups) apple cider
- 1 bunch fresh rosemary
- 1 bunch fresh thyme
- 5 ml (1 tsp) chili powder
- 1 pork loin roast (1.8 kg/4 lb)
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) canola oil

Stretch the search stream

Don't get trapped in one industry. Dig around outside of your degree type

ALANNA GLASS
TalentEgg.ca

Look a little closer. A career path you may have never considered could very well catch your eye. ISTOCK

Are you coming out of school with a degree and not sure where to go next to pursue a career?

A degree in accounting doesn't mean you need to join an accounting firm. A degree in computer science doesn't mean you need to work for a technology company.

Students are too often limiting themselves to a specific industry and not looking out for the multitude of opportunities available in other industries that are still suited to their training. Think outside the industry box.

"(Students) have their minds set on one specific industry, which can really limit their job opportunities," says Debbie Bottineau, Regional Vice-President of OfficeTeam. There are so many opportunities across a variety of industries that are neglected because people think the jobs don't exist.

She also suggests not limiting yourself by solely focusing on full-time positions. "A lot of employers are looking for hands-on work experience, so don't just focus on full-time opportunities. Look at temporary and contract positions as well."

So now that you're ready to start searching and you've reached a career site (like TalentEgg), where do you begin?

"I would say as a starting point, look broad from an industry perspective," says Bottineau. "You want to identify your transferable skills and tackle position types versus one specific industry."

Use your imagination

Look at how the skills that you possess fit into the position to be filled

- It may be surprising to be a finance graduate on your way to working in agriculture, but the job requirements could directly relate to your abilities.

ALANNA GLASS IS A MEDIA, INFORMATION AND TECHNOCULTURE (MIT) STUDENT AT WESTERN UNIVERSITY.

The skill switchover

You've got a lot to offer. How to sell your transferable part-time job skills for full-time employment

SASHA RANA
TalentEgg.ca

Your hospitality experience can 'serve' you well in the application process. ISTOCK

I've gone through the interview process countless times and I think the most important piece of advice I can offer is: sell your transferable skills.

After graduating from university or college, many of us do not have the experience we need to land our dream jobs. What we do have, however, is a slate full of entry-level positions which may include server, retail sales associate, fast-food worker, and many other so called "useless jobs."

However, one thing that many of us fail to recognize is that the skills you acquire in all of these jobs will help you become successful in your future career.

Imagine this scenario

Your interviewer on one side of the desk flipping through your resumé, saying, "So let's go through your past experiences and what you can bring to the table in this position…" Meanwhile you're on the other side fretting, thinking to yourself, "How am I supposed to highlight my qualifications when I don't have any?" But you do!

Here are a few common jobs students hold, and how to identify transferable skills you can sell to any position:

Server

You're on your feet all day, remembering orders, juggling various tables. This translates to hard working and dedicated, quick learning and an ability to handle various tasks at once. Also constantly dealing with customers of all levels of difficulty builds character and resilience.

Retail sales associate

You deal with many aspects of daily sales operations from point of sale purchases and returns, to organizing merchandise, to assisting customers in finding suitable products. This translates to the ability to multi-task, you have organizational skills, not to mention always maintaining a positive attitude while helping customers choose that perfect item.

Fast-food worker

You work in a small area with a million operations going on at once. You have to ensure customer satisfaction, while working with a number of people in providing tasty food and drinks quickly. This translates to the ability to work in a fast-paced environment while accomplishing several tasks at once. This position also screams team work!

SASHA RANA IS AN HONOURS COMMERCE GRADUATE FROM MCMASTER UNIVERSITY, CURRENTLY WORKING AS AN ACCOUNT REPRESENTATIVE. TALENTEGG.CA IS CANADA'S LEADING JOB SITE AND CAREER RESOURCE FOR STUDENTS AND NEW GRADUATES.

What do I need to know to become a (chef)?

Explore what you want to be and how to get there.

Learn more at: CareerBear.com

Student Voice

Turn one job into one million opportunities

Sally Gao
Graduate, Journalism
Ryerson University
TalentEgg.ca

I graduated from Ryerson University with a Bachelor of Journalism degree in spring 2010 with the hopes of finding a job in the media industry. I started looking for positions in my professional field in May and went through some interviews that didn't lead to anything.

I realized that the biggest obstacle hindering my prospects of finding a job was my experience. Even though I volunteered to write for my school outlets, such as The Eyeopener and McClung's Magazine, I didn't get enough training and exposure to the real world work environment.

Without wasting my time, I researched many companies online using Twitter, Facebook and even YouTube to gather insights on which industry I should tap into. I considered getting an education in public relations and communications but felt I needed some work experience before I decided if that's something I really wanted to get into.

Nonetheless, I finally got my first job at the end of 2010, where I was a Content Writer for a small online company. This job gave me the platform to try and learn new things, including SEO marketing, social media networking and branding. It opened my eyes to different career paths I could take and I became more confident in my job prospects as a growing journalist.

Where I am now

I recently went back to school to pursue a graduate certificate in Human Resources Management but dropped out of the program because I didn't feel I was ready to change careers just yet. I volunteered for different online magazines and networked with people in the writing and editing industry.

My recommendations for employers, schools and career centres

One thing I highly recommend for employers is to look beyond the education and look for any transferable skills a potential candidate may have. Many people who worked at different jobs have acquired multiple skill sets that can be used for another job they apply for. Just because they may not have the degree, training or education doesn't mean their experience doesn't allow them to learn those aspects. What matters is what results they can bring to the company and what value they have as an employee. It's important that prospective workers can apply their knowledge into the work they do, as well as have a solid academic foundation to back it up.

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NBA

Spurs' Popovich named top coach

Gregg Popovich was selected as the NBA's coach of the year on Tuesday after leading the San Antonio Spurs to 50 wins and the No. 1 seed in the Western Conference in the lockout-shortened season. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CFL

Teams try on new looks for Year 100

CFL teams will be sporting a different look this season as part of the league's 100th anniversary celebration.

This week, eight teams are unveiling new re-engineered jerseys created by Reebok. The East Division squads donned their new uniforms

Jeff Johnson tries on his new Argos jersey in Toronto on Tuesday. AARON VINCENT ELKAIM/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tuesday with the Western clubs unveiling theirs Wednesday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

NBA

Bulls drop Game 2 without Rose

Jrue Holiday scored 26 points, Lou Williams added 20 and the Philadelphia 76ers beat Chicago 109-92 on Tuesday night to even their first-round series in the Bulls' first game without Derrick Rose. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBA

"You're still the best team in the NBA until an opponent proves otherwise."

Chicago Bulls great Scottie Pippen in an open letter to his former team on Tuesday. The Bulls lost superstar point guard Derrick Rose to a season-ending knee injury on Saturday.

Devils break through in 3rd

NHL. Floodgates open for New Jersey after peppering Flyers' Bryzgalov for 40 minutes

Zach Parise rushes over to congratulate Devils teammate David Clarkson who crashed the net to score the game-winning goal on Ilya Bryzgalov in Philadelphia Tuesday night. BRUCE BENNETT/GETTY IMAGES

Game 2

Devils	Flyers
4	1

Adam Larsson watched Game 1 from the press box, dressed sharply in a suit and tie. From the rafters, he sat helpless as he watched his New Jersey Devils lose a tough road opener in this Eastern Conference semifinal series against the Flyers in overtime.

In Game 2, though, he received his chance to shed the suit, and don a uniform.

And the 19-year-old rookie took full advantage.

Larsson scored the first post-season goal of his career off a wristshot in the third, igniting a four-goal explosion in the period, as the Devils rallied to a 4-1 win over Philadelphia on Tuesday night.

"I know how the playoffs (are)," Larsson said. "I watched all the games from the stands. I know that everybody steps up a little bit. I knew in my mind, if wanted to stay in the lineup, I had to step it up."

Larsson and Clarkson scored consecutive goals in the third period to rally the Devils past the Flyers and make up for the absence of Ilya Kovalchuk. The Devils played without their regular-season leading scorer because of a lower body injury.

Travis Zajac added a late goal to make it 3-1, and Bryce Salvador scored a late empty-netter for the Devils.

Game 3 is Thursday in Newark, N.J.

Matt Read scored 2:53 into the game to give the Flyers hope they could jump to a commanding series lead. Instead, the offence went into a funk and goalie Ilya Bryzgalov couldn't protect the advantage.

Even without Kovalchuk, the Devils did what they wanted against Bryzgalov, taking close shots and dominating the play in the Flyers' zone.

They just couldn't score — until the third.

Bryzgalov, who signed a $51 million, nine-year deal last summer, was especially stout in the second when he bailed out the Flyers' offence with a 12-save period. The Flyers went more than 18 minutes in the period before taking a shot on Martin Brodeur.

"I didn't sense frustration. We were comfortable with how we played the first two periods," Devils coach Peter DeBoer said. "And it was just a matter of keeping it going in the third. And the goals came."

Kovalchuk's injury opened a roster spot for Larsson, a rookie defenceman, to be activated. Larsson was a first-round pick last year and had two goals and 18 points in his first NHL season, but had not played a playoff game yet. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NHL. Predators pair to sit out for 'selfish' behaviour

The Nashville Predators already face a tough challenge returning home, down 0-2 to the Phoenix Coyotes in their Western Conference semifinal.

Now, they either have something to rally around with forwards Alexander Radulov and Andrei Kostitsyn suspended for Game 3 on Wednesday night or wind up with yet another excuse in this series.

The Predators announced the suspensions Tuesday morning, and general manager David Poile and coach Barry Trotz said the decision to punish the forwards for violating unspecified team rules was easy. The general manager is leaving the decision on whether the pair return for Game 4 on Friday night up to Trotz.

Poile refused to specify what Radulov and Kostitsyn did, saying any hint would give away what they did. He called their behaviour unfortunate and selfish. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Alexander Radulov, top, and Andrei Kostitsyn. TOP: MARK HUMPHREY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE BOTTOM: JONATHAN DANIEL/GETTY IMAGES FILE

Dominant Vanier Cup QB looks to catch on in CFL

Kyle Quinlan enters the CFL draft sporting one of the finest audition tapes in CIS football history.

The McMaster quarterback led the Marauders to a 41-38 win over the defending champion Laval Rouge et Or in a wild Vanier Cup last November, completing 36 of 55 passes for 482 yards and two touchdowns. Quinlan also rushed for a team-high 106 yards.

"He's coming off perhaps one of the greatest performances by a university quarterback in the Vanier Cup," said McMaster coach Stefan Ptaszek. "Laval is the premiere program in our nation and their pride and joy is their defence. To throw for 480 yards and rush for 100 is unique beyond unique.

"We'd love to have him back. The question is does the CFL agree with me how unique this kid is and are they going to take a chance?"

Quinlan is waiting for Thursday to find out.

"I have no idea what's going to happen with it," he said. "That's kind of part of the excitement surrounding this week.

During the regular season, Quinlan completed almost 65 per cent of his passes, with 13 touchdowns and just two interceptions. In the playoffs, he was named MVP in the Yates Cup, Uteck Bowl and Vanier Cup.

With a year of CIS eligibility remaining, Quinlan has options. And he could end up in a CFL camp whether he gets drafted or not. Hamilton invited him to camp last season to give him a flavour of the pro game. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quarterback Kyle Quinlan in November 2011 in Moncton, N.B. ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

4 SPORTS

NHL

"Sidney Crosby needs to be in elite shape to perform at the level that he needs to perform at. I haven't talked to him, but I don't think he was feeling great. You can't miss that much time in a season, even Sidney Crosby."

Gary Roberts on Tuesday. The former NHLer, who played two seasons with Sidney Crosby in Pittsburgh, said the superstar probably suffered during the Penguins' first-round loss to the Philadelphia Flyers after coming back from a concussion. Roberts knows about comebacks. He retired at age 30 due to a serious neck injury. But he changed his lifestyle, started to train differently and returned to play a total of 21 seasons.

NBA playoffs

Pierce leads Celtics to victory

Paul Pierce battled through another tough shooting night to score 36 points and the Boston Celtics wiped out Atlanta's 11-point lead in the second half even without Rajon Rondo, stunning the Hawks 87-80 on Tuesday in Game 2 of the Eastern Conference playoffs.

On the web

Highly touted Nationals slugger Bryce Harper was set to make his big-league home debut in Washington on Tuesday night as an injury fill-in. But Harper looks like he could be the rare 19-year-old who lands a full-time gig in the majors. Scan the code for the story.

5 DRIVE

What Owners Like

Most Solara owners rave about relatively generous trunk space, sharp looks, good gas mileage and an easy-to-use convertible top. A smooth ride, spoiling looks and a comfortable interior round out the package.

What Owners Dislike

Most owners say the Solara is more set up for touring than sportiness —and that handling is less than inspiring. A few owners also report squeaks and rattles as the car ages.

On the Web

Scan code for more car reviews and news

This Camry can help you soak up the sun

Second Gear.
2004 to 2008 Toyota Solara

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
Drive@metronews.ca

With an attempt at injecting some fun and excitement into the Toyota Camry lineup, the Toyota Camry Solara (Toyota Solara for short) turned the automaker's reliable and well-loved Camry into a two-door coupe or convertible. Intended for shoppers after a more personal motoring experience, the second-generation Solara debuted as a 2004 model, and has now transitioned into used-car territory.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Common issues

Checking out a Solara Convertible? Inspect the roof mechanism thoroughly. Rips, tears, abrasions and duct-tape patches are all bad signs. Inspect the area where the roof stores for signs of rust, mildew or moisture, which could indicate a leak.

Soak the car aggressively in a coin-operated spray-and-wash to inspect for leaks. Some owners have reported leaks through the convertible top, as well as a tendency for water collected on the roof to drip into the cabin when the doors are opened. Lumpy or sporadic acceleration may be the result of a bad engine sensor, and any hard shifting from the transmission is likely a computer-related issue.

Engine

Look for four or six-cylinder power with output between approximately 160 and 230 horsepower, respectively, and automatic transmissions all around. All models were front-wheel drive.

Verdict

A well-maintained Solara should prove to be a sensible, relatively spacious and easy-to-live-with machine.

Note that the lighter and less complicated coupe model should offer up better handling and a quieter ride, if you're not dead set on a drop-top.

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Tempering spring optimism

Autopilot

AUTO PILOT
Mike Goetz
drive@metronews.ca

Spring is not kind to everyone. Just ask these Toronto Maple Leaf fans. CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Some wise person once said, "No winter lasts forever; no spring skips its turn."

The sentiment assumes spring rules and winter drools.

Not saying the assumption is wrong, just that it could be more nuanced. There are dark sides to everything, even to some of the wonderful things wrought by spring.

Pollen, for instance, eventually brings a glorious greening to trees and their ilk, but not before it sneaks en masse into various entry points in my head, and does an Occupy Wall Street in my sinus cavities.

There is also a dark side to the optimism generally associated with spring renewal. While it's possible for everyone to be optimistic, it's not possible for everyone to be on the winning side of whatever they are optimistic about. Just ask Canadian hockey fans. The puck hit the fan so to speak, at every Canadian NHL franchise this spring. And just to mangle that metaphor a bit more, that puck not only got chewed up in the fan, it ultimately killed the fan too, but not before the dying fan spit the puck back and right into the new flat screen TV, which also died an untimely death. Basically, spring equals death.

I'm only in this mood because one my favourite spring car rituals didn't turn out too well this past weekend.

I always look forward to firing up my old Jaguar every spring, after its long winter slumber. It's always great to once again breathe in its intoxicating mixture of gas, old leather, and oily metal, reacquaint myself with its lovely sheet metal, and hear the engine cough and spurt before smoothing out to a satisfying low and even rumble.

This year there was a large puddle of brake fluid under the Jaguar. Usually there is some, but this was over the top. No brakes.

Oh well, I'll start the engine at least. It fired right up. I tilted the "bonnet" forward to examine the engine while it warmed up.

As soon as I did that I could smell raw gas, and then could see gas pouring out of the front carburettor. A stuck float probably. The usual remedy, hitting the bottom of the float bowl gently but firmly with a rubber hammer, didn't work. So then I tried hitting my head with the rubber hammer. That didn't work either.

I shut the engine off.

Instead of that first great drive of the season, I had one big mess to clean up, and two mechanical problems to sort out. And I just spent the first part of the day doing income tax returns.

A lot or renewal happens in the spring, but old cars just get older.

I cleaned up the mess the best I could, put the cover back on the car, and went back in the house. Got a beer and watched the end of the Blue Jays game, which just happens to be another spring ritual of mine from time to time, and a much more dependable one too.

Tire treads advance with virtual velocity

Driving Force. The road that tires must travel before getting on your car runs through a computer

JIL MCINTOSH
Drive@metronews.ca

History lesson

- Early tires had almost no tread and could be slippery. Firestone introduced the first angular tread in 1908, formed in letters that spelled "Non-Skid" on the tires.
- Computer models are now so accurate that many tests — including those such as tire durability and crash-testing — are done only to validate the data, and reveal nothing that researchers didn't already expect.

A research tire tread by a computerized machine. PHOTOS BY JIL MCINTOSH

Tire mold by an old-fashioned carved plaster.

A research tire tread made by a computerized plastic printer.

The tread on your tires may look random, but it's actually a very specialized design. The grooves and blocks can affect how the tire channels water, how it grips on ice and even how loud or quiet it is.

In the 1900s, tire designers drew patterns with pencil and paper, says Neal Sehm, manager of mold design for Bridgestone Americas in Akron, Ohio.

"That didn't change much until about the 1970s, with the advent of CAD (computer-aided design)," he says.

"Instead of drawing boards, you used a computer to draw what you used to do by hand. It did minimal computations. It just gave you a different tool to do your sketching."

The flat design had to be transformed into 3D, and in the earlier days, this meant hand-carving the pattern into a plaster mold. The next development was computer-aided manufacturing. The design would be programmed into a machine that produced an exact 3D replica with a computer-guided cutting head.

Today, computers can render perfect virtual versions.

"It's actually created in 3D space in the computer," Sehm says. "Drawings are no longer required to design, manufacture or even validate something that you make. We're looking at 3D pictures on the computer, and all the characteristics that you build into that picture are the same characteristics that you want on a tire."

Still, while the computer screen is showing a perfect three-dimensional rendition of a tire, "a lot of people have problems visualizing in 3D space," Sehm says.

An actual rendition of the design is still created, but today, it's likely to be made on a 3D printer. These machines use print heads just as your computer printer does, but instead of ink, they deposit layers of material — plastics, polymer or ceramics — and slowly build up the finished product.

This gives designers the ability to examine the 3D design and determine if they've achieved their goals.

Once the design is good to go, it's off to the next stage of production.

"The big thing is time," Sehm says.

"The bottom line is that when we get done with this, we have a design that we take to market."

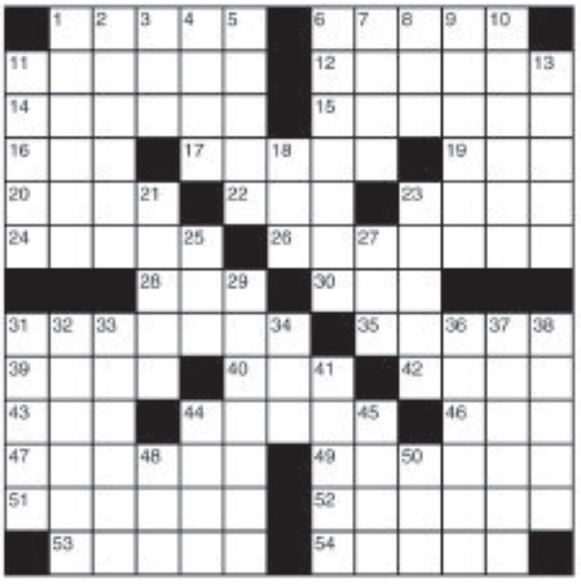
Crossword

Across

1 Serf
6 Actor Fernando
11 Appetizer
12 Inventor — Graves Otis
14 Wastes no time
15 Spurts forth
16 New Haven collegian
17 Assertion
19 "Go, team!"
20 Cribbage gizmos
22 Diplomatic agt.
23 Bear lair
24 Bert's pal
26 Egg white
28 Apply Brylcreem
30 Mess up
31 Relax briefly
35 "Hi" in Hilo
39 Writer Kingsley
40 Bumped into
42 Eventual statue
43 Android, for short
44 Give private lessons
46 Parched
47 No teetotalers
49 Advertises
51 "Sing some more!"
52 Construction pieces
53 Dilutes
54 Small change

Down

1 Van
2 Pulver's rank
3 — -di-dah
4 Cartel acronym
5 Induction motor pioneer
6 Easy to read
7 Grad
8 "— for the million ..."
9 Religious retreat
10 Make a bundle
11 Thin pancake
13 Wan
18 "I — Rock"
21 Factions
23 Ringlets
25 Corrode
27 Monokini's lack
29 Puzzles
31 Dinette necessity
32 Quantity
33 Tackiness
34 Bottom line
36 Trite
37 Seraglios
38 Big pit
41 Subject
44 Gull's cousin
45 Hayseed
48 — polloi
50 D.C. title



Sudoku

	9						3	
		8				6		
3	6		7	9	2		8	1
	1		2		7		6	
6								5
	5		9		4		7	
2	3		8	4	5		1	6
		6				4		
	8						9	

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's Sudoku

8	6	4	7	3	5	9	2	1
2	9	5	4	6	1	3	8	7
7	1	3	2	8	9	6	4	5
6	7	2	3	9	8	5	1	4
1	4	8	5	7	6	2	9	3
5	3	9	1	4	2	8	7	6
4	5	1	9	2	3	7	6	8
3	2	6	8	1	7	4	5	9
9	8	7	6	5	4	1	3	2

Yesterday's Crossword

Cryptoquip

How to play

This is a substitution cipher where one letter stands for another. Eg: If X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle.

AV W BYPRKL AR HWS EKK VKLC KV VPANWEYR WLC CYREPKSYPR, RKFY FANXE RWS AE'R HWPRXAB HKPRXAB.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHAT MIGHT A PERSON CALL FOLKS WHO ARE SMOOTHING DOWN PIECES OF CORN? KERNEL SANDERS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: K equals O

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

Horoscope

Aries | March 21 - April 20. Wherever you go and whatever you do today, don't be tempted to take your work with you. It will still be there for you later.

Taurus | April 21 - May 21. You will be romantic today. Surprise the object of your affection with a gift you know will be appreciated.

Gemini | May 22 - June 20. A few kind words from you could make all the difference to someone today. It's time to kiss and make up.

Cancer | June 21 - July 22. The facts and figures may be on your side but that does not necessarily mean you are going to win the argument.

Leo | July 23 - Aug. 22. Someone you find attractive could have a negative affect on your money situation today. Don't fall for the charm of a pretty face.

Virgo | Aug. 23 - Sept. 22. Anything routine or predictable will turn you off. Put chores and duties off until another day.

Libra | Sept. 23 - Oct. 22. Is a friend really loyal to you, or is it just an act to get what they want? According to the planets it may be the latter, so be on your guard.

Scorpio | Oct. 23 - Nov. 21. Someone you usually find it quite hard to get along with is trying to be nice to you. End the hostility.

Sagittarius | Nov. 22 - Dec. 21. You enjoy surprises. That's good, as there will be a flood of them coming your way over the next 24 hours.

Capricorn | Dec. 22 - Jan 20. It's not often you get caught up with a new fad or fashion but something has seized hold of your imagination and won't let go. Enjoy it.

Aquarius | Jan. 21 - Feb 18. You know when to make a noise about things you don't agree with, and you know this is not the right time to make critical remarks.

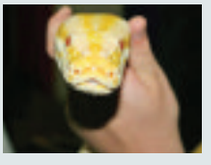
Pisces | Feb. 19 - March 20. A friend will confide in you. You may be shocked by their confession. Offer practical advice. SALLY BROMPTON

Caption Contest

"Rapunzel has already been saved, people!"
Keddy

HASAN JAMALI-BARBAR/ THE CANADIAN PRESS

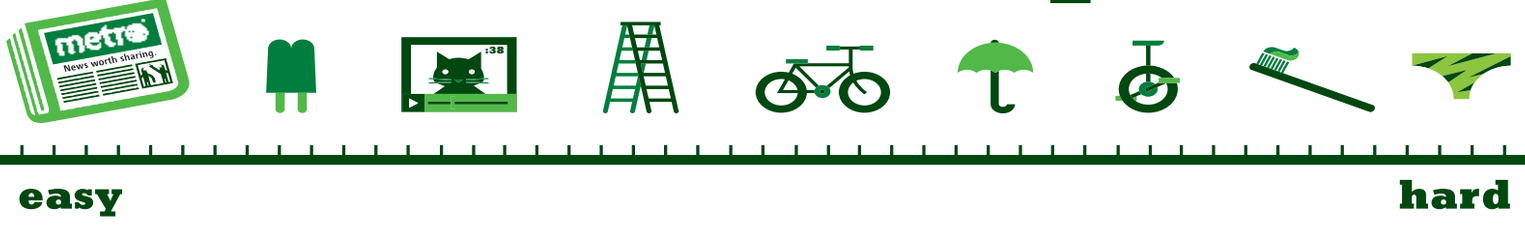
Win!



You write it!

Write a funny caption for the image above and send it to play@metronews.ca — the winning caption will be published in tomorrow's Metro.

Sharability



the prius v stands for versatility. so you can carry vacuum cleaners, vegetarians or veterinarians.

Take the innovative Hybrid Synergy Drive system the Prius is known for and add 50 per cent more cargo space, and what do you get? Incredible versatility, that's what. No matter whether you need to carry a dining table or a drumset, the Prius v fits everything you need – or can comfortably seat up to 5 passengers. The Prius v delivers city fuel efficiency of 4.3 L/100 km, which means it has the best fuel efficiency of any SUV, crossover or wagon on the road today.* Crossover vehicle? The Prius v crosses over to a new level of spaciousness and fuel efficiency. Which means you can do a whole lot more – and pump a whole lot less. So which Prius fits you?

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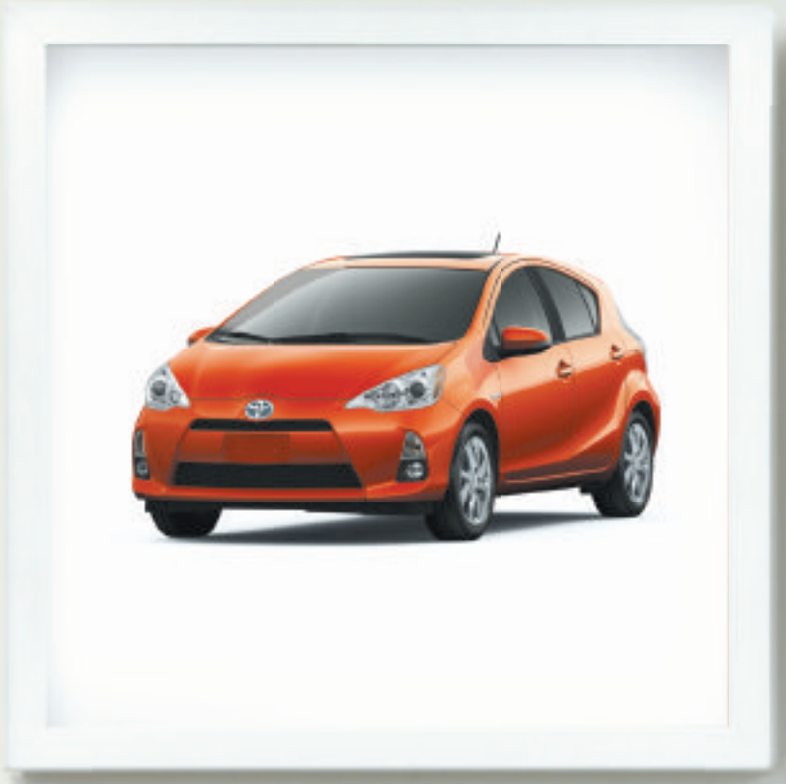

the sporty new prius c.
it's the most fun you can have with your seatbelt on.

There's one thing that the subcompact segment has been missing: Toyota's revolutionary hybrid technology. Now it has arrived, in the cutting-edge shape of the Prius c, Toyota's first premium subcompact hybrid. But there's even better news: the Prius c offers 3.5 L/100 km, the best city fuel efficiency of any car without a plug.* The Prius c's maneuverability is perfect for tight city spaces. But on the highway, a low center of gravity and sculpted aerodynamics mean the car cuts through the wind like a ninja star through butter. All in all, the Prius c offers sophisticated technology in a nimble little package. So which Prius fits you?

starting from $20,950†

prius for everyone.ca

TOYOTA
make things better

*Based on 2012 Fuel Consumption Guide ratings published by Government of Canada. Actual fuel consumption may vary. †Model shown is Prius c Technology model with Premium Package with a MSRP of $25,340. MSRPs do not include freight and PDI ($1,565), license, insurance, registration, applicable taxes, levies and fees. Dealer may sell for less.